

## AMENDMENTS

### Amendments to the Specification

Please delete the first paragraph of page 7 of the specification and substitute the following revised paragraph, as follows:

The hot gas 20 enters an inlet plenum 25 attached to the base of the mold 26. The gas 20 is distributed to the inter walls 28 on one side of the mold 26, which must be porous to the gas. In the preferred embodiment of the invention, both the inter 28 and outer walls 30 must be porous. Less preferably, at least one inner 28 and one outer 30 wall are porous. The hot gas 20 must be distributed to flow more or less uniformly through the mixture of the powdered mixture 32 to be sintered. It should be understood that mixture 32 generally comprises carbon particles and a binder, such as a thermoplastic resin. The selection and sizing of the carbon particles and thermoplastic binder, and any additional materials sintered into the resulting carbon block, are left to the practitioner as is or may be known in the art. In the preferred embodiment of the method for forming a filter block having annular shape, heated gas 20 enters the center pin 50, formed by the inter walls 28 of the mold 26 and preferably constructed from a porous sintered metal, passes radially through the mixture 32, and exits through the porous sintered metal outer mold walls 30. The gas 20 therefore enters the mixture 32 uniformly and heats the individual binder particles by direct contact. The gas 20 exits through the outer surface (walls) 30 of the hollow cylindrical block mold 26 into an outlet plenum 34 (see FIGS. 2 & 3) from which it returns via a return line (not shown), to the compressor 22 and then to the inlet plenum 25. In a slightly less preferred embodiment of the inventive method, the gas can be passed through the

external wall 30 of the mold 26, through the mixture and into the porous interior walls 28. It is contemplated that for lower cost heating, the gas 20 such as air can be atmospheric air that can be simply exhausted to the atmosphere at the end of the heating process. Process control and monitoring instruments include means for measuring and controlling the gas flow 40, such as through gas flow meter, and means for measuring and controlling the heated air temperature 42, such as through a thermostat. All steps of the inventive method can be automated.